



KONNECTION

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Employee Newsletter

Cabinet's best design work to be
showcased

From Butcher Hollow to dead man's curve

Spring 2008

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Message from the Secretary

Greetings, all –

As we embark on a new fiscal year, our cabinet is also entering an important time of transition. Many of you no doubt followed the proceedings of the 2008 General Assembly, and have heard about the issues facing state employees: the budget and pension plan situations, the retirement incentive deadline that will hit us hard between now and January 2009. At the same time, for those reasons, we are re-engineering our own structure to streamline our organization and to meet future demands.

The Transportation Cabinet must become more nimble in reacting to the daily expectations placed upon us. Change can be unsettling, but there have been encouraging responses from our employees. They have shown fervor by embracing the challenges of transition.

As you know, the system of roads and bridges that we maintain has continued to grow while the cost of new construction has skyrocketed, and funds have become very limited.

A highway plan has been issued to replace House Bill 79, which eliminated the cabinet's ability to manage the plan and which Governor Beshear vetoed. The substitute plan contains all the projects recommended by the governor, the House and the Senate. Although there is obviously not enough money for all the projects, we will at least be able to consider all the needs and move them along if and when funding becomes available.

Flexibility in programs, flexibility in funding, and flexibility in the abilities of our employees are the keys to our future success. Our proposed organizational changes are designed to move us in that direction. As we lose much of our experienced workforce to retirement, please know that our goal is to enable you to provide the very best service to the public and to this agency.

Whether we maintain our roadways, design new roads, audit projects, or license those vehicles that travel our roads, it is imperative that we each do our part every day to ensure that transportation in the commonwealth is the very best it can be.

In the months ahead, we'll be working with each of the districts and departments to gather input and implement the ideas gained thus far. I thank you for your patience as we work through these challenges, for your continued professionalism and your dedication to this cabinet and the people of Kentucky. I look forward to meeting with more of you!



Joe Prather

Cover Story

Partners in Design

By: David Devers

Upcoming conference to showcase cabinet's best design work

Successful projects, more often than not, are rooted in successful partnerships. That will be a consistent message at this year's partnering conference of officials from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Kentucky, Federal Highway Administration and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), Aug. 18-20, at the Griffin Gate Marriott Resort and Spa in Lexington.

Some of the best design work produced in the Transportation Cabinet will be on display at the 13th annual conference during the KYTC Project Excellence Awards luncheon. That event showcases top of the line in-house project designs.

"Our winning project development teams illustrate the importance of skilled partnerships, both within the district office and between that office and the affected public," said Transportation Secretary Joe Prather. "Our planners and designers are also aware of the need to preserve the environmental, scenic, aesthetic, historic and natural resources of any area impacted by one of our projects."



Top picture pre-construction and bottom picture is post-construction of U.S. 23 looking North

While the conference has been held for well more than a decade, the first KYTC Project Excellence Awards luncheon took place in 2005. An award-winning District 12 team, which included John Michael Johnson and Mandy Collins-Justice, was honored



John Michael Johnson and Mandy Collins-Justice, in 2005

for successfully taking on the challenge of transforming a rural four-lane roadway with a flush median into a six-lane roadway.

Congestion relief and improved safety were major goals as the team sought to improve the most heavily traveled road in Eastern Kentucky (US 23), which passed through some of the most expensive property in Pike County. The project's most significant traffic and safety impact is a reduction of permitted cross-traffic left turns (other than signalized intersections) from 38 to three.

Last year a District 12 design team, including design engineer Chris James and project manager Mary Westfall-Holbrook, submitted another winning entry. Their project included improved lanes and shoulders on the narrow gravel road leading to Butcher Hollow (shown on cover) once the home of singer Loretta Lynn and now a tourism landmark in Johnson County. One section of the road was also designed to accommodate parking and turning near the Loretta Lynn home place. The remainder of the road was designed as an upgraded paved road with limited width changes.

In 2006, Tom Clouse managed a District 8 project which involved the reconstruction of US 25

to provide three-lane access from Interstate 75 to the Country Music Hall of Fame at Renfro Valley. The concept of Context Sensitive Design was incorporated into the project to make the work better fit in with the surrounding community.

Because of high pedestrian volume in the area, considerable attention was paid to options for pedestrians to safely cross US 25. The result was a pedestrian underpass leading from the ticket office to the Renfro Valley main theater on the other side of the highway.

The District 8 team was able to design the project so that it would easily comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and could be connected to an existing drainage system on the Renfro Valley property.

“This project exemplifies how the Transportation Cabinet can utilize

resources from a variety of disciplines to accomplish something everyone can be proud of,” said Clouse. “It also shows just how valuable it is to communicate and partner with those who will be affected by the project.”

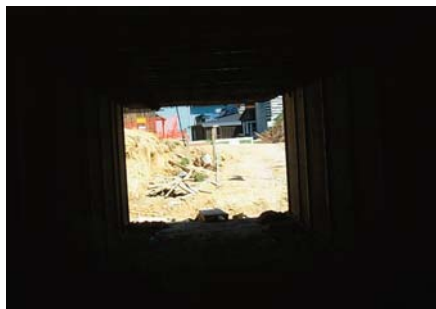
District 2 personnel were already in pursuit of federal hazard elimination funding to address “Dead Man’s Curve,” a dangerous section of US 431 in Muhlenberg County, when a couple of fatal truck crashes put the project on the fast track. The photo below shows Dead Man’s Curve.

“Every highway improvement project that comes through our office carries significance,”

wrote District 2 Chief District Engineer Ted Merryman, when the project was submitted for awards consideration. “Then there are those rare projects that immediately impact a community and bring a tremendous sense of accomplishment to the project team. This is certainly one of those rare projects.”

The project Dead Man’s Curve was reconstructed to meet the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials recommendations. In addition, traffic lanes and shoulders were widened to address the causes of many previous crashes.

The deadline is fast approaching to submit entries for the 2008 competition. All entry forms must be received by the director of highway design by July 31. □



Construction and finished pictures of pedestrian underpass



“Dead Man’s Curve”



Reconstructed “Dead Man’s Curve”

Bright ideas saving tax dollars

KYTC employee suggestions help stretch resources, improve customer service

By: Mark Brown

At a time when budgets are lean, every dollar counts, really counts. That's why top state officials, including Gov. Steve Beshear, have praised a group of state employees for their innovative ideas that promote government efficiency.

In February, 47 employees, including seven from KYTC, were recognized for submitting useful ideas, all implemented, to the Kentucky Employee Suggestion System program. Many of the ideas are realizing measurable financial savings, while others are saving time or have improved customer service.

"The backbone of this cabinet is a team of sharp-minded professionals willing to think beyond the status quo in order to make the most of limited resources," said Secretary Joe Prather. "I commend this talented group for their appreciation of financial prudence and efficient customer service."

By statute, employees with merit status are eligible to offer suggestions through the program, administered by the Kentucky Personnel Cabinet. Suggestions can be made by visiting the Personnel Cabinet's Website and completing the appropriate documentation. Employees whose ideas are implemented receive monetary rewards that range from \$100 to \$2,500.

Thanks to a suggestion submitted by Willie Payton, the state has saved more than \$141,000 since approving a plan to issue registration decals for annual commercial truck license renewals instead of new license plates.

Payton, director of the Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing, received a \$2,500 reward.

"It's a practical solution that saves material and reduces costs for the cabinet," Payton said. "That's the important function of the suggestion system – to allow employees with a micro-view of the process to have an opportunity to improve the operation."

Stella Dean, an administrative section

supervisor in the Division of Motor Carriers, received \$100 for each of two ideas submitted. She suggested adding her division's Web address to temporary fuel and non-reciprocal permits – providing useful information to recipients who might otherwise have to call the office.

She also suggested removing the "year" reference on the solid waste renewal form, eliminating the need for

annual revision – saving time and materials.

Dean said the suggestion system is an easy way for employees to play a role in streamlining procedures to better serve customers. "The system is not only user friendly but provides an unbiased review of any and all suggestions," Dean said.

Other KYTC award recipients, each receiving \$100, include:

- Gina Bartley, right of way agent, District 12 – suggested placing reflective tape on snowplow blades to increase visibility.
- Jadie Tomlinson, engineer specialist, Highways – suggested that wire, cable and



Left to right with Secretary Prather: Loretta Fowler, Willie Payton, and Tonya Terrell

conduit be approved for conformity and specifications through resident engineers without requiring sampling and inspection through the materials division.

- Loretta Fowler, administrative section supervisor, Vehicle Licensing – suggested using postcards instead of letters to remind customers to pick up specialty license plates.
- Maurice Clayton, administrative specialist, Driver Licensing – while working for Highways, suggested installing a door at the Warren County maintenance facility to insulate the office area and prevent controlled air from escaping to the garage area.
- Tonya Terrell, program coordinator, Motor Carriers – suggested creating a form to ensure automobile mileage correction is accurately reported during auto transfers.

Across state government, suggestions that were implemented banked more than \$9 million in savings, and nearly \$34,000 in award money was presented, according to Debbie Bohannon, benefits manager for the Personnel Cabinet's employee recognition branch and chair of the employee suggestion council. She said savings varies widely each year.

But, ideas don't have to be about money. "We are interested in ideas that might improve any aspect of state-government work, whether it's safety, employee morale, public relations or some other area that relates to our daily operation in state government," Bohannon said.

For more information about the suggestion program, visit the state employees section of the Personnel Cabinet's Website: www.personnel.ky.gov. □

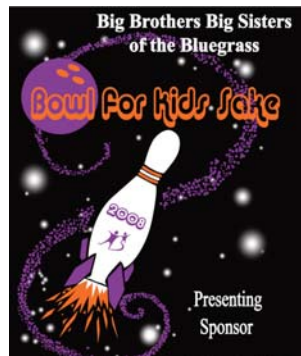
KYTC employees 'Bowl for Kids' Sake'

Several Transportation Cabinet employees participated in this year's Bowl for Kids' Sake to support Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bluegrass.

Based on pledged amounts, cabinet employees raised more than \$9,000 for the program, around \$3,500 more than they raised in 2007. KYTC was second only to the Education Cabinet, which raised more than \$10,000.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bluegrass is a nonprofit organization that matches central Kentucky children with adult mentors. The program serves more than 2,400 children each year throughout its 14-county service area.

The local organization currently has 600 children matched with mentors. More than 400 are waiting to be matched. □



Motor Vehicle Licensing honored

The Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing was recently honored for its work to improve service to customers during the vehicle titling process. The division won the Customer Service Excellence Award at the American Association of Motor



First row: Geri Grigsby, Jeanette Walker, Godwin Onodu. Second Row: Willie Payton Loretta Fowler. Third row: Dan Glass, Netta Harrod, Gloria Brown. Forth row: David Feldhaus, Melissa Crews, Tony Momenpour and Fanny Haney.

Vehicle Administrators conference in Hilton Head, S.C. Dan Glass, commissioner of the Department of Vehicle Regulation, accepted the award.

The Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing issues an average of 1.4 million titles a year. Significant changes in the titling process reduced the time required to complete a request from a maximum of 32 days to a maximum of eight days. □

Biodiesel tank available for government vehicles, equipment

Central location assists in increasing use of biofuels

By: Robin Jenkins

A cleaner form of fuel is now more readily available for state operated equipment. A new 10,000-gallon biodiesel tank has been installed at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Division of Equipment on Wilkinson Street in Frankfort.

The site was established as a central location where state vehicle operators could obtain biodiesel. It is a cooperative project of KYTC, the Finance and Administration Cabinet, the Energy and Environment Cabinet and Fleet One, the fuel card service provider for Kentucky state government.

A pilot project began in April 2004 to test the use of biodiesel in state vehicles. Usage has increased steadily with no performance or maintenance issues. However, with only eight private sites throughout the state, availability was limited.

"As stewards of the environment and taxpayer dollars, we're continuously looking for new ways we can do business more efficiently," said Transportation Secretary Joe Prather. "The availability and convenience of this site will encourage more of our equipment and vehicle operators to utilize biodiesel more often."

Biodiesel is non-petroleum-based diesel fuel, typically made with a blend of vegetable oils or animal fats. It can be used alone or blended with conventional diesel. The use of biodiesel has been shown to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

KYTC utilizes approximately 3,000 pieces of diesel-powered equipment. Any state, city or county government entity utilizing Fleet One may use the new facility. The tank location is well lit, easily accessible for large vehicles and equipment, and is available 24 hours. □

Restore Award Nomination

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Kentucky recently held its 2008 Engineering Excellence Awards Ceremony in Frankfort. The "I-64 Riverside Expressway – Restore 64" project was nominated by project design firm PB Americas. This project was one of 13 finalists at the awards ceremony and received the highest honor, the Grand Conceptor Award. Congratulations to all District 5 employees who participated in this project from conception to completion. □



L to R: Barbara Michael (PB), Carl Jenkins (KYTC), Shawn Dikes (PB), Tom Wright (KYTC), Kevin Bailey (KYTC), Mike Baron (PB), Scott Walker (PB), Lindsay Walker (PB), Arlen Sandlin (PB), Andrea Clifford (KYTC), Chris Poe (KYTC).

Booster seats now legal requirement in Kentucky

Secretary Prather: Action 'will help save young lives'

By: Mark Brown

A law aimed at improving safety for young passengers is now on the books in Kentucky. Gov. Steve Beshear signed Senate Bill 120 earlier this year, requiring children who are younger than 7 and between 40 and 50 inches tall to be secured in a child booster seat.

The bill requires law enforcement officers to issue "courtesy warnings" for violations until 2009, after which there will be a \$30 fine with no court costs. In addition, violators will have the option to purchase a booster seat instead of paying the fine.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a properly installed, belt-positioning booster seat lowers the risk of injury to children by nearly 60 percent, compared with seat belts alone.

The legislation is a step in the right direction, according to Boyd Sigler, director of KYTC's Office of Highway Safety, which recommends that children less than 57 inches in height be properly restrained in a booster seat. Sigler points out that a lap and shoulder belt must be used in conjunction with the booster for it to be effective.

Gov. Beshear commended the Legislature for taking action to help protect children who have outgrown traditional child seats but aren't large enough for adult seat belts.

"Booster seats are proven to be effective. This bill provides a reasonable approach to help achieve our ultimate goal of saving lives and reducing injuries," said Gov. Beshear.

"Our goal is to help ensure Kentucky children are protected while traveling in a motor vehicle," said Transportation Secretary Joe Prather. "We believe this legislation, paired with our proactive efforts to help educate parents and caregivers about the most effective



Governor Beshear and Sophia Gabbert daughter of Vince and Tonya Gabbert.

safety procedures, will help save young lives."

Prather encouraged those who want guidance or information about booster seats to contact the cabinet's highway safety office at 1-888-374-8768. Information about child seats and other safety issues can also be found online at www.highwaysafety.ky.gov. □

Aviation Days

September 12—13, 2008

Experience life through the world of the sky.

The Capital City Airport is proud to sponsor the 9th annual Aviation Days. Come see civilian and military aircraft, aerial and aerobatic demonstrations, and sport parachuting. Airplane and helicopter rides will be available for the public to enjoy as well as many fun events and vendors for all ages. Come join us at the Capital City Airport located at 90 Airport Road in Frankfort.

Construction of median cable barriers announced

Governor 'convinced that this action ... will save lives'

By: Chuck Wolfe

Gov. Steve Beshear, taking action to save lives on Kentucky roads, has announced plans to add 44.2 miles of median cable barriers on sections of two heavily traveled divided highways.

"Protection of human health and safety is a fundamental responsibility of government," the Governor said. "We are committed to making our highways safer, and I am convinced that this action will result in lives saved and many serious injuries prevented."

"This is a first step in identifying problem 'crossover' crash areas on our interstate system. As additional money becomes available, we will continue to address priority areas," the Governor said during news conferences in Louisville and Munfordville.

Under the Governor's plan, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will carry out the \$10.8 million project in five sections.

One is KY 841 in Jefferson County, a 10.2-mile stretch of the Gene Snyder Freeway. It is the only part of the Snyder now lacking cable barriers in the median.

Four sections – totaling 33.9 miles – are along Interstate 65 in Bullitt, Hardin, Hart and Barren counties.

Median cables are a form of guardrail, designed to prevent crossover collisions on divided highways. Kentucky first installed median cables in September 2006 and now has 52.1 miles of median cables on sections of I-64 and I-265 in Jefferson County, I-71 in Jefferson and

Oldham counties, and New Circle Road in Fayette County.

The cable barriers in Jefferson County have been struck more than 300 times by vehicles, preventing an estimated 269 potential crossovers. In Fayette County, barriers have been struck at least 59 times, with 30 potential crossovers prevented.

Sites for additional cable barriers were selected following an analysis of highway crash data ordered by Transportation Secretary Joe Prather.

"For some months, we have been committed to increased use of median cable barriers but wanted to ensure they were being placed where they could do the most good," Prather said. □



Governor Beshear and Dave Lawson (husband and father of victims of a crossover crash March 19, on I-65).



Left to right: Dylan Davis, Ryan Davis, and Logan Price at a work zone safety awareness event.

Motorcyclists and motorists encouraged to 'share the road'

By: Robin Jenkins

Motorcycle fatalities have doubled since 2003, and Kentucky's fatality rate is now second-highest in the nation. One of every nine U.S. road fatalities involves motorcycle riders. The steady increase in fatalities over the past decade represents one of the commonwealth's greatest highway safety challenges.

To increase awareness and safer driving practices, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is promoting motorcycle safety. All travelers are encouraged to "share the road," be courteous, and stay alert during the busy summer travel season.

"With warmer weather here, more motorcycles are back on the roads. Drivers of all vehicles need to be extra cautious," said Secretary of Transportation Joe Prather. "Motorcyclists can be difficult to see, so it's important that we all follow the rules of the road and stay alert."

Motorcycle riders are far more vulnerable to death or serious injury than motor vehicle passengers. Eighty percent of motorcycle crashes result in death or injury - four times the rate for crashes involving cars and trucks. In terms of vehicle miles traveled, motorcyclists are 35 times more likely than passenger car occupants to die in a motor vehicle traffic crash.

Safe driving tips:

- ♦Remember to allow a motorcyclist the full lane width. Although it may seem as though there is enough room in a traffic lane for both an automobile and a motorcycle, the motorcycle needs the full room to maneuver safely —never try to share a lane.
- ♦Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic.
- ♦Remember that motorcyclists are often hidden in a vehicle's blind spot or missed in a quick look due to their smaller size. Always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic or proceeding at intersections.
- ♦Be aware that motorcycle signals usually are not self-canceling and riders sometimes forget to turn them off. Wait to be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed.
- ♦Remember that road conditions which are minor annoyances to passenger vehicles pose major hazards to motorcyclists. Be aware that motorcyclists may need to change speed or adjust their position within a lane suddenly in reaction to road and traffic conditions such as potholes, gravel, wet or slippery surfaces, pavement seams, railroad crossings, and grooved pavement.
- ♦Allow more following distance, three or four seconds, when following a motorcycle so the motorcyclist has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency. Do not tailgate. In dry conditions, motorcycles can stop more quickly than cars.
- ♦Follow the rules of the road, be alert to other vehicles, and always wear your seatbelt or DOT-compliant helmets and protective gear.



"Our message to all drivers is clear," Prather said. "Make this the first year in recent years when motorcycle fatalities do not increase. Help to share in the responsibility and do your part to share the road with everyone." □

Roadside enhancement program creating more colorful Kentucky

Daffodils first signs of roadside beautification

By: Robin Jenkins

The color scheme of Kentucky's highways is not confined to pavement gray and construction orange. A vibrant yellow has been added this spring, and more colors from nature's palette soon will follow.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's roadside maintenance crews have been gardening as part of Kentucky's roadside enhancement initiative.

Over 120,000 Dutch Master daffodil bulbs were planted last fall at points along several major highways. The yellow perennials will provide many years of spring beauty and become more spectacular with time. Mechanizing the bulb planting required some ingenuity on the part of cabinet crews, who found that a modified potato plow or a trencher worked best.

In addition to daffodils, "we should see about 75 to 100 acres of blooming wildflowers this year," Nancy Albright, director of the cabinet's Division of Maintenance,



said. Corn poppies, black-eyed Susans and cosmos are a few of the varieties that cabinet "gardeners" have planted. Some of the better plots can be seen along the Blue Grass Parkway from Bardstown to Elizabethtown.

Another initiative is the Parkway Beautification Program, mainly along the Mountain Parkway. At interchanges and other locations, permanent beds have been established with flowering shrubs, trees, and plants that have year-long color. Plume grasses and Rhododendrons are some of the more popular plants used. Mid-summer should be prime viewing time for these plots at exits 16, 53, 57 and 60.

"We're interested in doing more in the Transportation Cabinet than just laying blacktop," said Transportation Secretary Joe Prather. "It's our hope that we can enhance our transportation system to be environmentally sound and aesthetically pleasing as well. Our roadside enhancement program is one way in which we can do that." □

KEEN visits technology leadership program

By: Margaret Fuqua

The Kentucky Engineering Exposure Network (KEEN) recently participated in a statewide program that gathers technologically inclined students from across the state. The Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP) held its state championship in May at the Lexington Civic Center. The event allows many partners to support learning for students of all ages, parents and school personnel.

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) representatives were on hand with the KEEN Playground, which included different exercises aimed at illustrating how science and engineering help shape our world and our transportation system.

KEEN, sponsored by KYTC, is a program designed to share basic engineering and scientific concepts with young audiences, in addition to financial aid opportunities for aspiring engineers. The program provides an outlet for cabinet engineers to work closely with schools across the commonwealth.

Students had the opportunity to participate in two activities: the aluminum boat flotation and arch bridge construction. In the flotation activity, students were given a 6 by 6 inch piece of aluminum foil and asked to construct a boat of any size or dimension. The object was to construct a boat that held the largest value of a combination of quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies without sinking.



Top, students make aluminum boats; bottom, students build a bridges .

Weight distribution, force, buoyancy, velocity and surface area were among concepts demonstrated through this exercise.

The arch bridge activity demonstrated how one of the oldest and most widely used structural concepts, the arch, is constructed. Students were required to work together to build both legs of the arch bridge individually before the keystone was placed. If constructed correctly, the keystone allows the bridge to stand on its own. The concepts of geometry, structural design, and teamwork in the design and building process are demonstrated in a fashion that young students can understand.

The arch consisted of 21 foam blocks of various sizes and two wooden foundational blocks. When complete, the students (and adults) all enjoyed the final step: knocking the foam arch blocks down and building the bridge again!

"It is exciting to watch how kids learn about the concepts and mechanics of engineering that are the building blocks of society's infrastructure," said Jamie Bewley Byrd, the cabinet's KEEN coordinator. "KEEN is an excellent way to connect with young audiences and has the potential to spark a real interest in kids that might someday have an impact in this profession." □

For more information about KEEN, visit the Transportation Cabinet's Website at www.transportation.ky.gov and follow the education link.

Damron and KYTC receive recognition for a job well done

By: Miranda Thacker

Steve Damron, director of the Transportation Cabinet's right of way division, received honorable mention for leadership in the 2008 Excellence in Right of Way Awards. The award recognizes Damron and the cabinet's right of way division for proactively avoiding critical staff shortages of branch managers and skilled staff positions.

Damron has shepherded an innovative program that employs college students at KYTC district right of way offices and prepares them for future full-time employment.

Jose Sepulveda, federal highway administrator for Kentucky, presented Damron with a plaque at the awards reception in May.

Sepulveda congratulated Damron for his outstanding leadership.

With many of his division's senior employees retiring, Damron realized the division would need to be proactive in addressing personnel shortages. This year, more than half of the remaining statewide workforce will qualify for retirement.

Damron turned for help to the cabinet's partnership with the University of Kentucky Transportation Center and the Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO). Using a \$15,000 SASHTO grant the division set up a co-op program with 15 college seniors from campuses near the 12 district right of way offices.

Twelve of the students were hired to

learn various right of way functions, while three were focused on appraising. Students are paid an hourly rate. With satisfactory performance during the first semester, students are offered a bonus if they commit to work for the cabinet full time upon graduation.

"The co-op program not only has given

this group of students the opportunity to learn job skills but has also given the Transportation Cabinet a group of well educated and experienced applicants to choose from as we meet the challenges of statewide retirements," Damron said. "The publicity generated from recent news articles has also sparked a lot of interest."

Damron said students in the program

will benefit from being trained by long-term, knowledgeable personnel and will help fill future vacancies in the right of way division.

Transportation Secretary Joe Prather commended Damron for his efforts. "With each retirement, we lose a lifetime of knowledge that's hard to replace," Prather said. "Steve's work will help steady our staffing levels and provide a stream of talent as we search for potential applicants in the future."

The program is being refined to continue indefinitely, with six to eight additional students per year and the creation of a full tuition-based scholarship.

The cabinet hopes to continue the program under the current partnership with the Kentucky Transportation Center as a co-op program. □



Steve Damron receives award from FHWA

D1 employees boost March of Dimes

Fundraising effort is 'most improved' in Purchase and Pennyrile

By: Keith Todd

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet District 1 employees have been recognized as "most improved" in fundraising for the Purchase and Pennyrile Region March of Dimes.

Some 320 employees in 12 counties raised \$2,574. That helped the March of Dimes raise a total of \$70,000 across the 15-county region, exceeding the regional goal by \$6,000.

"Transportation employees were seventh place overall out of 70 teams and the most improved team from year to year," Area Director Tom Dolan said. "We celebrate their success in helping us top our regional fundraising goals."

The KYTC District 1 team, co-chaired by Terry McKinney and Regina Darnell, hit upon an innovative fundraising activity – games using the DVD version of the popular NBC-TV show Deal or No Deal. Participants advanced based on their success in the game with prizes to the top winners.

"The Deal or No Deal game is a great way to encourage employee participation," Dolan said. "It's nice to see people come up with new ideas that allow employees to have a

good time. It keeps our fundraising effort fresh and fun. We've shared the idea for potential use by other teams in their fundraising efforts."

Darnell and McKinney said they were pleased with their colleagues' response.



Area March of Dimes Director Tom Dolan (R) presents awards for "most improved" team and "seventh overall" team to Kentucky Transportation Cabinet District 1 employees for their fundraising efforts. The KYTC team increased their fundraising for March of Dimes by using the DVD version of the popular NBC TV game show Deal or No Deal.

"Our employees stepped up to help a worthy cause," McKinney said. "We appreciate their participation. Without them it would not have been possible."

Funds raised by March of Dimes go to support education materials used by area health departments. The organization also supports national research on premature births and the distribution of materials to doctors.

"Our goal is to help determine what causes premature births and identify other health issues that threaten babies," Dolan said. "We then work to get information out to mothers and families on things they can do to help promote healthier babies." □

To donate call 800-658-6674
or visit their website at
www.marchofdimes.com/kentucky

Cabinet Appointees

By: **Miranda Thacker**

Dan Glass, who has many years of administrative and managerial experience in Kentucky state government, has been appointed commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicle Regulation. Dan, of Frankfort, will direct the department that oversees driver licensing, motor carriers and motor vehicle licensing and titling. Dan worked summers in the Department of Highways while a student at the University of Kentucky but made his career in the Kentucky Department of Parks. He held many posts in Parks during a 30-year career, including deputy commissioner. He also managed four state resort parks – Buckhorn Lake, Carter Caves, Natural Bridge and Kenlake. Dan is a native of Wilmore, in Jessamine County. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from UK. He has served on the board of the Kentucky Tourism Council and Kentucky Turf Grass Council, and he represented Kentucky in the National Association of State Park Directors and the Southeastern State Parks Association. □



Cass “Tom” Napier has been appointed chief district engineer for District 11, based in Manchester. He has most recently been Permits Branch manager in the Division of Maintenance. Tom began a 20-year association with the Transportation Cabinet as an engineering scholarship student at the University of Kentucky, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering. His previous experience includes stints at District 7, in construction, and District 11, in traffic. At the central office, he has worked in the divisions of research (now Kentucky Transportation Center), traffic operations, program management and maintenance. Apart from the cabinet, Tom has 22 years of experience in the construction and coal industries. He lives in Jessamine County with wife Pat. They have two married daughters and two grandchildren, Campbell and Brooklyn. □



Neal Shoemaker is acting chief district engineer of District 8, based in Somerset, where he has served for the last 12 years as district bridge engineer. Neal is a 19-year employee of the cabinet, having begun as an engineer in training. He worked in materials and construction during his engineering rotation program. In the course of his career, he also has served as environmental coordinator, ADA coordinator and district maintenance engineer. Prior to joining the Transportation Cabinet, Neal amassed 10 years of experience in coal mining, abandoned mine lands reclamation and the construction industry, working on projects across the commonwealth. He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Kentucky. He grew up in Hazard but now lives in Somerset with wife Sheryl. They have three daughters – Britani, Brooke and Bree. □



Bart Bryant has been named chief district engineer for District 9 in Flemingsburg. Bart has extensive knowledge and experience, having worked for the cabinet for 23 years in various capacities. He has served as resident engineer in Lexington, construction engineer and as assistant state highway engineer overseeing the Ohio River Bridges Project. Bart has been serving as a consultant since his retirement from the cabinet in May 2007. Bart has a bachelor's degree from UK. He resides in Paris with his wife and four sons. □



Greg Meredith has been named chief district engineer for District 3 in Bowling Green. Greg previously served as chief district engineer for the Bowling Green office during a 20-year career with the cabinet that began as a scholarship student. He served in various divisions including design, construction, materials, traffic, operations and planning. Most recently he served as vice president of operations at American Engineers, Inc., in Glasgow, Ky. Greg holds a B.S. in engineering from UK. Greg lives in Bowling Green with his wife, Melinda, a daughter and two sons. □



Tim Adams has been named chief district engineer for District 10 in Jackson. During a 19-year career with the commonwealth, starting as a scholarship student, Tim had served as a resident engineer in Irvine and as construction branch manager in Lexington. He has been serving as acting chief district engineer since September 2007. Tim holds a B.S. in engineering from the University of Kentucky. □



Kevin Damron has been appointed acting chief district engineer for District 12, based in Pikeville. During a 22-year career with the commonwealth, starting as a scholarship student, Kevin has most recently served as branch manager for preconstruction in the district office. Kevin has managed nearly \$1.5 billion in active highway projects within the past 11 years. He was named engineer of the year by the Kentucky Association of Transportation Engineers (KATE) in 2000. Kevin holds a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Kentucky. He is a native of Pike County, where he lives with wife Darlene. They have two daughters, Makayla and Kennedy. □



Kim Jenkins has been appointed to the position of executive assistant and will be serving as the Transportation Cabinet's legislative liaison. She assisted in legislative affairs for the Public Service Commission and the Office of the Governor during a previous period of service in state government. Most recently, Kim served as relationship manager for Peel & Holland Financial Group, the agency through which the Kentucky Association of Counties marketed and sold employee health benefits to county governments and other political entities. Kim lives in Taylorsville with her husband, David. She has two stepchildren, Jeremy and Holly. □



Bob Lewis, who has been an assistant state highway engineer at central office, has been appointed acting chief district engineer for District 7, based in Lexington. Bob began his career at KYTC in 1976 as an engineer in District 5. He also served as assistant director of the Division of Construction. Bob came out of retirement in August 2006 to rejoin the cabinet as an assistant state highway engineer. He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Kentucky. He is a native of Frankfort, where he lives with wife Glen-Ellyn. They have two adult daughters, Katie and Rebecca. □



Kellie R. Watson, an attorney who had been executive director of the Louisville Metro Government Human Relations Commission since 2002, has accepted the position of executive director of the Office of Human Resource Management. Kellie, of Prospect, managed an agency with responsibility for enforcing Metro Louisville ordinances banning discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations, among other things. Her many duties included providing training on the federal Civil Rights Act and Fair Housing Act and coordinating education and outreach on federal laws and local ordinances. Prior to heading the Human Relations Commission, Kellie directed the Mayor's Office of Affirmative Action in Louisville. She practiced law with the firm of Peck, Shaffer & Williams LLP, in Cincinnati, and the Public Defender Corp., in Louisville. Kellie holds a B.S. in political science from the University of Louisville and a law degree from Vanderbilt University. □



Adopt-A-Highway poster contest deadline is Sep. 30.

Please contact Miranda Thacker if you have any questions. 502-564-3419

Into the Blue

Capital City Airport is stop on all-female Air Race Classic

Capital City Airport, home of the Department of Aviation in Frankfort, had the distinction of being one of nine airports to host a leg of the 32nd Annual Air Race Classic – a cross-country airborne dash in which all the pilots are women.

Thirty-six teams entered the Classic, from Bozeman, Mont., to Mansfield, Mass. Thirty teams completed the race. The winning team – Dene Chabot-Fence and Gloria May – took first place in 2001 as well.

Chabot-Fence, a veteran of 13 Air Race Classics, holds a private flying certificate with more than 2,800 hours logged. After a career as an engineer, she became a naturopathic physician and practices in Carson City, Nev., where she also owns a business – Vitamin Villa.

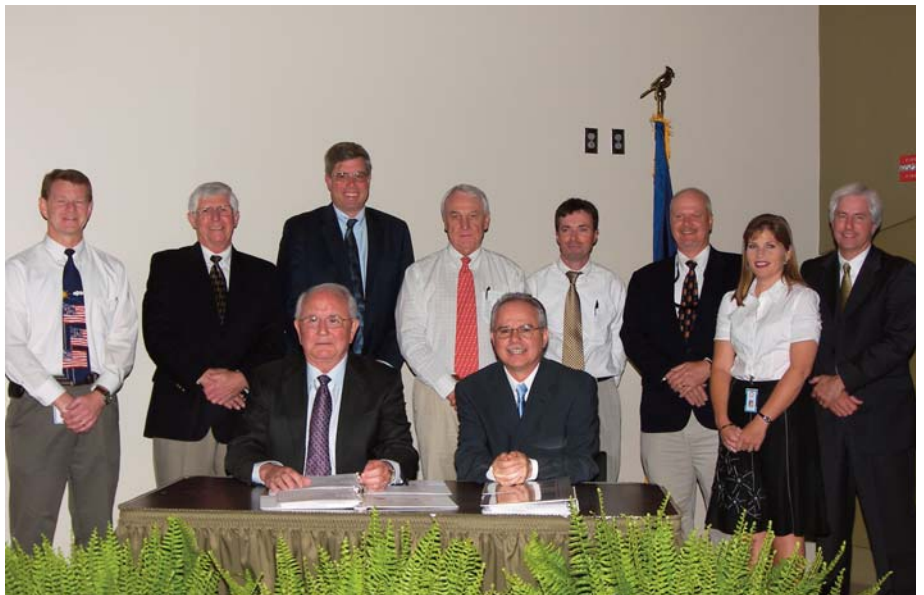
May, with more than 1,800 hours logged, also completed her 13th Air Race Clas-



**Left: Dene Chabot-Fence / Carson City, NV
Right: Gloria May / Kerman, CA**

sic as a private pilot. She is a retired almond farmer who now enjoys gardening and hunting for antiques. An avid softball player, May was inducted into the National Softball Hall of Fame in 1973, the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame in 1982, and the San Joaquin Valley Hall of Fame in 2005. She lives in Kerman, Calif. □

Transportation Secretary Joe Prather and Jose Sepulveda, Kentucky Division Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration, signed a Stewardship Plan under which their agencies will partner to deliver Kentucky's federal-aid transportation programs as efficiently as possible.



Back row L to R : David Kratt, Gilbert Newman, Chuck Knowles, Ray Polly, Colin McCarthy (Team Leader for Project Delivery – FHWA), John Ballantyne (Team Leader for Program Delivery – FHWA), Alice Wilson, Mike Hancock

Front L to R: Secretary Joe Prather, Jose Sepulveda, Kentucky Division Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration

Bon voyage, welcome aboard

New Hires

Jonathon Ross
Stuart Payton
Sarah Barker
Jon Whitaker
David Thompson
Christopher Reis
Nicholas Hendrix
Nicholas Eichmann
Adam York
Elizabeth McCullough
Albert Lawson
Shawn Ray
Timothy Smith
Lisa Pfingston
BD Wilson Jr.
Charles Knowles
David Pritchard
Michael Ingram II
Logan Baker
Min Jiang
Jon Clark
Susan Neumeyer
Kimberly Jenkins
Joseph Gossage
Dan Glass
Judith Spalding
Kellie Watson
Elizabeth Miller
Kenneth Watson
Frank Austin
James Woodward
Thomas McCloy
Kennita Roy
Karen Cunningham
Greg Meredith
Mark Mudd
Tommy Pedigo
Jennifer Woods
Nancy Mullins
Bart Bryant
Troy Shrout
Timothy Adams
John Terry
James Hoskins

James Gray
Patrick Grugin
Edward Morris
Cass Napier
Willie Payton
Neal W. Shoemaker
Mark Hoskins
Larry Oberlin
Jonathan (Todd) Shipp
Candace Link
Dale Weddle
Peggy Morris
JR Dobner
Geri Grigsby

Retirees

Sharon Bailey
Claude Seymour, Jr.
Mary Bond
Sherman Peel Jr.
Harold Witt
Willis Washington
Alan Pearson
Samuel McNichols
Charles Stephenson
John Agee Jr.
Benjamin Garrott
Jeffery Clemons
Ronald Yarborough
Anthony Hornback
Bobby Bridges
Biratu Dadi
Jimmie Avera
Michael Buell
Sammy Wells
Thomas Griffin
Pauline Manica
Walter Lynn Jr.
Michael Lyons
Howard Harden
William Mills
John Hayes
Lewis L. Phelps
John Jasper

Bobby Taylor, Jr.
James Colson
William Stewart
Robert Karsner
Jack Shaw
Gregory Cofer
Katrina Bradley
Ernest Hall
Kevin Baker
Danny Lovins
James Brummett
Merle Satterwhite Jr.
Charles Cook, Jr.
James Fitz-Gibbon
Denzil Fannin
Charles Lester Jr.
Wendell Cooper
Marvin Maggard
Duane Thomas
Garnetta Aldridge
Beverly Pennington
James Pennington
Brenda Simpson
James Simpson
Wilma Jacobs
Phillip Johnson
Marcelyn Mathews
Charles Pendleton
Robert Wilson
Johnny Madison
K D Madison
Marty Hensley
Shelia Graham
Henry Germann
Sam Ritter
Chanis Cox
Louis Chandler
Terry Courts
Paul Askin
Sue Osborne
Darrell Young
Karen Doumas
Vernon Martin
Diana Ford
Douglas Yanders
Gary Marcum
Billie Raleigh

Sandra Rudder
Troy Creech
Druella Woods
Harold Daniels
Bernadine Roberts
Raymond Jeffrey
William Brown
Rickey Bates
Cynthia Griffin
Phillip Barker
Dale Fuller
James Bauer
James McBrayer
Robert Edwards
Roland Walden
JoAnne Tingle
Sherman Bowman
Merri Jones
Louis Amato
Louis Kawaja
Bonita Marshall
Anthony Smith
Kathy Byrns
Murray Scott
Harrison Martin
Philip W. Lawson
William Bebout
Johnny Wall
Bobby Herron
Robert Joyce
Janice Jones
Ben Carr
Jo Smith
Janice Leslie
Regina Baldwin
Gerald Mason
Charles Wolfe
Cheryl Moorman
Allan Anderson
Jack Litton
William LeForgee Jr.
Bobby Fay
Nyiri Stacy
Larry Thompson
Ronnie Spencer
Lester Rogers
James Hollon

Harold Hall
Charles Neeley
Daryl Greer
Gregory Witt
Jimmy Wilson
Nancy Miracle
Charles Schaub
Deborah Watson
Charles Harris
John Dvok
Trevor Booker
Wesley Glass
Robert Paul
Edward Colgate
Robert Irish
Della Davis
Ronnie McKinnis
Timothy Vibbert
Betty L. Redd